LIVING









THE SUN lowellsun;

THE MVRRP LINEUP

Contact information for the Merrimack Valley Regional Recycling Partnership:

Billerica

- Recycling Coordinator Mary Delahanty, mdelahanty@town. billerica.ma.us
- Operations Supervisor Steve Robertson
- The 2009 Trash and Recycling Guide is online at http://www.billericadpw.org/

Chelmsford

- Recycling and Solid Waste Coordinator Jennifer Almeida, jalmeida@townofchelmsford.us
- See Chelmsford Recycling Department at http:// townofchelmsford.us/ Recycling-Department.cfm
- Recycling 101: A Guide To Curbside Recycling in Chelmsford is available as a PDF at www.chelmsfordrecycles.org

Dracu

- Recycling Coordinator Matt Zettek, mezettekjr@aol.com
- See Dracut Web site at http://www.dracut-ma.us/

Lowel

- Recycling Coordinator and Solid Waste Manager Gunther Wellenstein, gwellenstein@lowellma.gov
- See Lowell Web site at http:// www.lowellma.gov/ depts/recycle

Tewksbury

- Assistant to Town Manager Sandy Barbeau, sbarbeau@ town.tewksbury.ma.us
- See Recycling Committee Web site at www.Tewksbury.info/ recycle

Tyngsboro

- Board of Health Administrator Joan Ferrari, jferrari@tyngsboroughma.gov
- Recycling Committee Co-Chair Chris Mellen



MVRRP TEAM: Bottom row, Carolyn Dann of the Massachusetts DEP and Sandy Barbeau of Tewksbury. Top row: Mary Delahanty of Billerica, Gunther Wellenstein of Lowell and Jennifer Almeida of Chelmsford. Other MVRRP members, not in the photograph: Joan Ferrari and Chris Mellen of Tyngsboro, Matt Zettek of Dracut and Andrew Bergamini of Westford.

■ See Recycling Committee at http://www.tyngsboroughma. gov/recycling/index.htm

Westford

■ Recycling Commission member Andrew Bergamini

info@westfordrecycles.org■ See Web site at www.westfordrecycles.org



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By Merrimack Valley Regional Recycling Partnership

he communities in the Merrimack Valley Regional Recycling Partnership have been working together closely over the past few years to find ways to improve municipal-recycling services while keeping the cost to the municipalities and their residents low.

While we began exploring opportunities for regional cooperation long before the beginning of the current economic slowdown, and certainly well before any of us were aware of the dire consequences the recession would have on our local budgets, the timing of our cooperative efforts couldn't have been better in light of the savings these efforts are currently providing.

One example of a program that came about as a result of the MVRRP cooperation is the curbside electronics and appliance collection program. The towns of Chelmsford, Billerica, Tewksbury, Tyngsboro and Burlington worked together to explore ways to

REGIONAL COOPERATION: SMART IN GOOD TIMES, BRILLIANT IN BAD TIMES



REGIONAL RECYCLING EFFORTS:

- Curbside electronics and appliance collection program■ Household hazardous waste collections (coming soon!)
- increase recycling opportunities for difficult-to-manage waste such as electronics and appliances.

With the assistance of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Regional Recycling and Municipal Assistance coordinator, whose job is largely to facilitate such regional efforts, the group procured the services of a single contractor, Appliance Recyclers Inc. It offered the group favorable pricing

in exchange for getting business from all of the participating towns. By working together, the group was able to secure a contract with an experienced company with a well-deserved reputation for excellent customer service on terms much more favorable than we would have gotten on our own. The overall response to the program has been very positive.

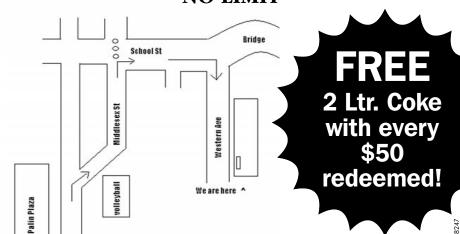
In addition to the Appliance Recyclers contract, various members of the MVRRP have worked together this past year to secure trash and recycling collection contracts and to obtain favorable pricing on trash disposal contracts. Currently many of the MVRRP communities are working to regionalize their household hazardous waste collection programs. Most communities currently offer one or two days a year on which residents may bring hazardous household products such as oil-

based paints, automotive fluids and pesticides for safe disposal. These collection events are expensive. Several municipalities have recently reduced or eliminated household hazardous waste collections because of budget constraints. This year the MVRRP communities have been exploring the possibility of opening up their household hazardous waste days to residents from participating MVRRP communities on a fee basis. If a resident is unable to attend her own town's event, she could have the option of attending one of the participating MVRRP communities' events. Details on this program are still under discussion but should be available soon.

Regional cooperation is a good idea any time there is a chance to achieve greater efficiency. But in difficult economic times, such cooperation could mean the very survival of services that might otherwise be eliminated. The MVRRP communities will continue to work together to find opportunities to save municipal dollars while ensuring excellent service to our residents.

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NEW APPROACH IN LOWELL: LESS TRASH SAVES MONEY

Billerica, Tewksbury, Burlington, Tyngsboro adopting automated collection this summer

By Carolyn Dann
Massachusetts DEF

owell started a new program at the beginning of March this year — automated trash collection. Six new trucks with automated arms are driving the city streets picking up and emptying trash carts.

These new trucks exceed the newest federal vehicle emissions standards and use ultra-low sulphur diesel fuel, which is better for the environment.

To accommodate the automated arms, carts should be set out in the driveway or

on top of the curb (not in the street), 3 feet from any obstacles (fire hydrants, telephone poles, etc).

The towns of Billerica, Tewksbury, Burlington and Tyngsboro will follow Lowell's footsteps starting in July.

NEW WHEELED CARTS: Residents with municipal trash service received a new 64-gallon wheeled cart in February.

The city contracted with Allied Waste to arrange to purchase, assemble, deliver and maintain these carts for the duration of the contract.

The carts are the property of the city of



GREEN TEAM: Lowell DPW Commissioner T.J. McCarthy, left, and City Manager Bernie Lynch in November display the trash containers and bags that are used in the city's new automated trash collection system. The program was launched last month.

Lowell. Residents may put their address on the cart, but if a resident moves, the cart needs to remain with the property.

The cost of the carts was incorporated into the contract with Allied Waste. Allied Waste was able to pay for the carts because they expect to see operational savings based

on their experience in other locations.

The new truck requires only one driver and finishes faster because of the automated arm. Allied Waste has already been able to reduce the number of trucks operating in

Please see TRASH/5

Lowell, Dracut, Billerica, Chelmsford, Tewksbury, Westford

Mercury Recovery Program

Mercury is an element that can be harmful to human health and the environment if not managed properly.

Thermostats, Thermometers, Mercury Switches, Button-cell Batteries

Exchange your mercury fever thermometer for a new digital thermometer (while supplies last)

Please bring products containing mercury to the following location:

- Lowell Recycling Office, City Hall, Rm. 34
- **Dracut** Board of Health, Town Hall Annex
- Billerica Board of Health, Town Hall
- Chelmsford Recycling Office, Town Hall
- Tewksbury Town Mgrs. Office, Town Hall
- Westford Board of Health, Town Hall



Many benefits to system

TRASH/From Page 4

Lowell from eight trucks to six trucks per day.

CLEANER STREETS: "The streets look clean" with the maroon carts at every home, according to DPW Commissioner T.J.

McCarthy. The commissioner and some city councilors visited the city of Nashua when they were considering this change and observed the automated trucks navigating Nashua streets successfully and also noticed that the streets looked cleaner and neater, according to McCarthy.

LESS WASTE AND MORE RECYCLING EXPECTED: According to the Gunther
Wellenstein, the city's Solid Waste and
Recycling coordinator, part of the reason for
the new automated-collection program is
that residents will be encouraged to recycle
more. Residents can use their old barrels for
recyclables, bottles, cans and plastic if they
apply a "RECYCLABLES" sticker. Stickers
are available at no cost from the DPW.

If residents recycle more and produce less trash, it saves the city money as well as being good for the environment. According to the contracts with the city, every ton of trash incurs a "tipping fee"

charge of more than \$70 per ton at the incinerator, but the city does not have to pay extra for the recyclables.

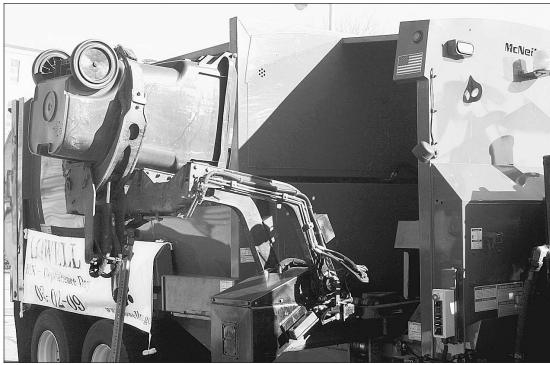
The small changes across all the households in Lowell can save hundreds of thousands of dollars in disposal costs for the city.

OPTIONS FOR OVERFLOW:

On special occasions, residents may need more space for trash. There are "overflow bags" available for sale at several retail locations in the city. See the city Web site for the Recycling Department under "Bin-dependence Day" for a complete listing.

For large, bulky waste

items, appliances, TVs and other items not allowed in the carts, residents should call
Allied Waste to arrange a pickup. For questions, please call Wellenstein at the Recycling Office, 978-466-7277, or Allied Waste at their toll-free number, 800-442-9006, if you have questions.



With automated trash pickup, a side loader attached to the truck picks up the wheeled container at curbside.

Early results show that automated collection has been good for the city.

The March 2009 trash tonnage was 26 percent, or 811 tons, less than in March 2008, which translates to a savings of

\$58,000 in the first month!

Carolyn Dann is the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's regional recycling and municipal assistance coordinator.

Attention Littleton Residents and Businesses

Do not dispose of thermostats, thermometers or fluorescent lighting. These products contain mercury which can be harmful if not managed properly.

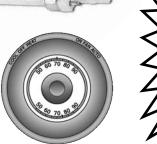
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ENFORCING QUALITY STANDARDS FOR RECYCLABLES

Helping residents properly dispose of medical sharps

s of July 1, 2010, medical sharps (needles, syringes with needles, lancets, and Epi-pens) will be banned from the trash statewide. In preparation for the ban, many communities in the Merrimack Valley are planning pilot programs for their residents. Sharps must be collected in a puncture-proof container (i.e., liquid detergent bottle, coffee can, or a red sharps container). Plastic milk bottles are not acceptable. Specific dates, times and requirements vary by town. Contact your local Board of Health for more information.

Chelmsford's program is for residential sharps only (no business, medical office or commercial sharps accepted). To participate, Chelmsford residents must register in advance for one of three designated collection dates. For more information, call 978-250-5241 or go to www.townofchelmsford.us and link to sharps disposal.

Beginning May 1, **Billerica** residents may bring medical sharps to the Board of Health Office. The hours for drop off are Monday-Friday, 8:30 to 10 a.m. and 3 to 4 p.m. Additional information is available at Billerica Board of Health. For questions call Richard Berube, director of Public Health, at 978-671-0931 or Christine West, RN, Public Health nurse, at 978-671-0932.

Because of the changing global market for recyclables, the facilities that sort and process our recycling have begun to enforce stricter quality-control standards. As a result, curbside collection vendors may be leaving some materials at the curb that had been accepted in the past. Residents should be sure to review their community's guidelines on how to prepare recyclables.

In the past, when market conditions were more robust, collection vendors were often more lax in enforcing quality control, accommodating residents by taking material that was not prepared properly. Takeout pizza boxes have been a big problem because any food or grease residue can spoil a whole load of clean cardboard; as a result, many communities are no longer picking up pizza boxes in curbside recycling.

In the past some residents have gotten away with using plastic bags to store recyclables such as newspapers or bottles and cans. Plastic film, including shrink wrap and plastic bags are a big problem for the sorting equipment that is used at recycling facilities. Even though the manufacturer puts a recycling symbol on the bag, **plastic bags cannot be recycled in curbside programs**. Many local supermarkets do collect them for recycling, and because all they collect is plastic bags they do not have the same sorting problem.

As residents work to increase the amount of material they recycle, it can be a challenge for collection vendors and processors who are now using stricter quality control. Despite the fluctuations in the market for recyclables, our communities benefit with each item that gets recycled as we realize savings in avoided trash disposal costs. Residents should check with their local recycling coordinator or recycling committee if they have any questions. The MVRRP thanks you for recycling.



It depends on whom you ask — and a third option might be better

t takes more energy to manufacture a paper bag than a plastic bag. But more paper bags get recycled than plastic bags.

On the other hand it takes less energy to recycle plastic bags than paper bags. Paper bags are degradable; plastic bags can last for 1,000 years, and many of them end up as litter or pose a threat to wildlife.

Paper bags are made from wood pulp, which comes from trees. Plastic bags are made from polyethylene, a petroleum based product. The manufacture process, for both paper and plastic bags, causes air and water pollution; paper bags generate 70 percent more air pollution than plastic bags during production.

If you're confused, you're not the only one.

So, what's the best answer? Get yourself a sturdy, reusable bag. Many grocers and retailers sell inexpensive reusable bags.

Local supermarkets that sell bags include: Price Chopper, Hannaford, Stop & Shop, Market Basket, Shaws, Roche Brothers, Whole Foods and Trader Joe's.

Retailers like Target and Wal-Mart sell reusable bags. Keep a few in your car so you'll always have them handy when you do your shopping. If you can walk to a local store, the reusable bags are sturdy enough to get you and your purchases home safely.

Spring 2009 Town of Chelmsford Recycling Events



Go to www.toknofchelmsfordrecycles.org or call Recycling Office 978-250-5203 for information.

Litter clean-up and Earth Day Fair, April 25: Call 978-250-5203 to volunteer to clean. Whether or not you clean, come to the Earth Day Fair on the Common from 12:00 to 3:00.

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off, May 9, 9:00 to 1:00 - Chelmsford Town Offices, lower lot (off Route 110). See the Chelmsford Recycles Flyer for what to bring or call 250-5241. NO Latex paint – call Recycling Office for disposal options. Residents only.

Fee-based spring leaf collection/drop-offs: call Jones Farm, 246 Acton Road, 978-256-8065.

Volunteers Needed: friendly, responsible people committed to waste reduction needed to help with recycling at the July 3-4 Country Fair. Call 978-250-5203 to sign up!

Pilot Medical Sharps Disposal Program: for the disposal of Chelmsford resident's sharps (needles, syringes with needles, lancets, and Epi-pens) which will be banned from the trash in 2010. Participating residents must register at least two weeks before the collection (failure to do so will result in a fee). Collection dates: May 9, September 8 and December 28, 2009. To register go to www.townofchelmsford.us (click on sharps disposal link) or call 978-250-5241.

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MASSRECYCLE SAYS KEEP RECYCLING!

Materials recovery facilities are waiting for your paper, plastic, glass and metals

In Massachusetts, the statewide recycling organization MassRecycle (www.massrecycle.org) has initiated a campaign to highlight the amount of paper (and dollars) wasted by all the times and places that we're not recycling paper.

The MassRecycle Paper Campaign wants you to know that it's more important than ever to maintain strong recycling programs and encourage the public's full participation.

Recycling markets have recovered from similar downturns in the 1970s, and in the early and mid-1990s. According to MassRecycle, unlike the West Coast, which relies almost exclusively on export markets, the Northeast still has domestic and Canadian mills using recovered paper and other secondary materials (glass, plastic, metals).



Massachusetts is home to Newark Group's 100 percent recycled paper mill in Fitchburg, which accepts mixed residential paper from cities and towns across the state. Abitibi Bowater, which collects paper from dozens of community drop-off sites, has recycled paper mills in Canada.

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection staff have discussed the market situation with many materials recovery facility operators and recyclers including Casella, Waste Management/Recycle America, E.L. Harvey and Abitibi Bowater. All have reported that they are still able to find end-users for the paper, glass, plastic and metals they collect.

More importantly, these local businesses need a continued stream of materials to maintain productive operations.

Recycling in Massachusetts is a vital industry that supports more than 1,400 businesses and 19,000 jobs.

At a MassRecycle meeting of recycling coordinators in March, the attendees heard from Bobby Cappadona of FCR/Casella. He reported that "markets are moving," prices are beginning to recover, and local paper mills "are starving" for material.

According to MassRecycle, with the high solid-waste tipping fees that prevail in the Northeast, the greatest local economic benefit from recycling is the avoided disposal costs rather than the recycling revenue. Municipalities in the

Recycling in
Massachusetts is a vital
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PAGE C7

Merrimack Valley do not rely on revenue from recyclables to any significant degree. According to the members of the Merrimack Valley Regional Recycling Partnership (MVRRP), the towns contract with private haulers who accept the ups and downs of the market as part of their business. When residents recycle, the towns benefit from the reduction in solid-waste tipping fees, which cost \$64 per ton or more.

The message from the MVRRP is: You are recycling better than ever! PLEASE KEEP IT UP!





he first Earth Day was celebrated in the United States on April 22, 1970. Many communities schedule events around this time of year. Activities focus on cleanups or restoration projects, festivals, fairs and parades, and are all intended to heighten public awareness of the importance of protecting the environment on a local and global level. Watch for information about Earth Day events in the Merrimack Valley Region or check out Earth Day events at http://earthday.envirolink.org.

Billerica

Thursday, April 30: Last day to order a rain barrel in Billerica. Pickup is May 7 at the Water Division on Treble Cove Road.

Saturday, May 2: Billerica Green-Up Clean-Up Day sponsored by Billerica Recreation. Come to Town Hall at 8:30. Bring your own gloves and tools you might want to use; special bags will be provided to volunteers. To sign up call 978-671-0921 or e-mail billericarecreation@town.billerica.ma.us.

Monday, July 6: Automated trash collection starts in Billerica.

Chelmsford

Wednesday, April 22, 7 p.m.: "Clean and Green: Reducing your Carbon Foot-

EARTH DAY EVENTS ACROSSTHE MERRIMACK VALLEY

print" at Chelmsford Library, Main Branch.

Saturday, April 25: Townwide litter cleanup in Chelmsford. Call the Recycling Office at 978-250-5203.

Saturday, April 25, noon-3 p.m.: Chelmsford Earth Day Fair. Music, environmental vendors, storytelling and Earthfriendly activities on Chelmsford Common.

Saturday, May 2, 9 a.m.-11 a.m.: Boy Scout Troop 74 is collecting usable household items for their Giant Yard Sale: games, toys, bicycles, etc. at the Central Congregational Church. Call 978-935-9474 for more information.

Saturday, May 9, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.: Chelmsford Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off. Chelmsford Town Offices, lower lot.

Friday, July 3 and Saturday, July 4: Country Fair in Chelmsford. Volunteers — friendly, responsible people committed to waste reduction and recycling — are needed to help with recycling. Call 978-250-5203 for information and to volunteer.

Dracut

April 18-26: Community Cleanup sponsored by Dracut Garden Club. Volunteers sign up to pick up road side trash. Drop off through April 16. For more information call Lisa at 978-957-3922.

April 25, May 2, May 9, May 16: Spring compost dates at the DillonCenter. Contact DPW 978-957-0411 for more information.

Lowell

April 19, noon-4 p.m.: 3d Annual Earth Day Festival, 220 Aiken St., Lowell. Sponsored by Community Gardens Green House.

April 25: Keep Lowell Beautiful Day. July 24-26: Lowell Folk Festival. The recycling program at the festival has been recognized by the EPA as a model for recycling at large public events. Volunteers needed.

Tewksbury

Wednesday, July 1: Automated trash collection starts in Tewksbury

Tyngsboro

April 19-26: Tyngsboro Volunteer Town Cleanup Week. Cleanup kits available at the public library.

Saturday, April 25: Tyngsboro Cleanup Day at the Public Schools and the Sherburne Nature Center and Trails.

Sunday, April 26, 1-4 p.m.: Earth Day Celebration — Sherburne Nature Center.

Friday, May 8 and 22: Place all yard waste in barrels or paper bags for Allied Waste pickup.

Saturday, May 16, 9 a.m.: Hazardous waste drop-off, Town Highway Department, Kendall Road. Note: Date is tentative at time of submission.

Saturday, May 30, 9 a.m.-noon: Tyngsboro Donation Day — Lowell Wish Project. Collecting gently used household items. Drop off at the commuter parking lot.

Saturday, June 13, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.: Annual Garden Club Plant Sale.

Thursday, July 2: Automated trash collection begins in Tyngsboro.

Westford

Saturday, May 16: Apple Blossom Festival.

June 27: Electronics recycling. Sept. 19: Electronics recycling and document shredding.

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Drop off at any one of these AAA Offices

Haverhill 90 Kenoza Avenue

Lowell 585 Pawtucket Blvd

North Andover 49 Orchard Hill Road Lawrence 155 Parker Street

Newburyport Port Plaza



Greener Chelmsford Initiative set to launch on Earth Day

The Chelmsford Board of Selectmen, working in close collaboration with the town manager's office, the recycling coordinator's office and the Chelmsford Business Association, is pleased to announce the launch of the Greener Chelmsford Initiative.

The purpose of the GCI, which will go live on Wednesday — Earth Day 2009 — is to engage residents and businesses in a voluntary effort to increase the town's rate of "the three R's" — recycling, reusing, and reducing — through a set of simple, cost-effective, measurable steps, "green tasks," such as eliminating the use of Styrofoam, starting a compost stream/pile or planting a tree.

Participating businesses will be presented with either a bronze, silver or gold GCI Seal of Approval based on the number of "green tasks" to which they commit (out of an initial preapproved list of 25). They will also be recognized via press releases and on a common Web site. GCI volunteers will engage in outreach and public education, aimed especially at young people, to communicate the impact that participants are having. GCI will be zero cost to the taxpayers.



Westford considers Waste Reduction Program

Westford residents will be voting on a proposal at the May 9 Town Meeting to implement a Waste Reduction Program (Article 19). The goal is to reduce the amount of solid waste being brought to the incinerator by our solid-waste hauler.

The result is twofold: 1. It will reduce the "tipping fee" (the per-ton cost of disposing our trash at the incinerator), thus significantly reducing the town of Westford's cost of trash removal; 2. It will increase recycling and composting, removing these items from the waste stream.

This program would limit the amount of weekly trash that would be picked up to 36 gallons. Any trash beyond the initial 36 gallons would need to be placed in a town-authorized bag that residents would purchase at local stores or the town clerk's office. The cost of the bags will be determined by the Board of Selectmen.

Westford sends about 9,400 tons of trash per year to the incinerator. At a cost ("tipping fee") of \$71.50 per ton, this works out to about \$672,000 per year. A 20 percent reduction in this tipping cost would save the town about \$135,000 per year. Additionally, the town could realize somewhere in the vicinity of \$64,000 in revenue from the sale of town-authorized trash bags.



Choose to Re-Use

Reduce Waste...
Make a Difference



Market Basket Re-Usable Blue Bags





RECYCLING A TO Z

HOW TO USE THE A-Z GUIDE

This guide includes many items that can be donated to someone in need. Local non-profits often collect material in more than one category, and may be mentioned several times. The guide also includes many materials that are not collected with household trash; some items require special handling, such as hazardous waste or compact fluorescent bulbs. If you need additional information, feel free to contact your local recycling coordinator or recycling committee.

APPLIANCES — WORKING

Non-profits collect working appliances for distribution to those in need, or to sell.

The Lowell Wish Project: 1A Foundry St., Lowell, 978-441-WISH (9474). Accepts working, good condition appliances; call ahead to make sure they need what you have. For more information and drop-off hours at the warehouse, go to www.thewishproject.org.

Mission of Deeds: 6 Chapin Ave., Reading, 781-944-9797. Accepts small appliances as well as furniture and general household items www.missionofdeeds.org.

Project Home Again: Andover, 978-470-1356, www.projecthomeagain.us/. Accepts working appliances as well as furniture and other household needs. Call or e-mail for more information, projecthomeagain@comcast.net.

Salvation Army: Call 1-800-728-7825 or visit www.salvationarmyusa.org. Appliances must be no older than 7 years, in working condition and located near a power source so they can be tested before pickup.

APPLIANCES — NON-WORKING

These appliances are collected for their scrap metal value. Appliances containing freon require special handling. Contact your municipal recycling or solid-waste office to find out about pickup or drop-off options in your city or town.

The following towns have designated Appliance Recyclers as an approved vendor for disposal of white goods: **Billerica**, **Burlington**, **Chelmsford**, **Tewksbury** and **Tyngsboro**. Residents in those towns may call 1-877-228-2898 or go to www.applrecyl.com

See companies listed under metal (scrap) or check your local directory for rubbish removal, scrap-metal dealers or salvage yards in your area. Fees vary.

AUTOMOBILES (WORKING)

Many non-profits accept vehicle donations and their programs include pick up services. Check with your favorite charity or try:

MA Special Olympics Recycle for Gold Program, go to www.recycleforgold.org/ or

call 1-800-590-1600 for more information. Donate your car, truck or van to raise funds for the Massachusetts Special Olympics.

Boys & Girls Clubs, call 1-800-854-CLUB to find the closest Boys & Girls Club or see www.bgcb.org/

Habitat for Humanity, call 1-877-277-4344 or go to www.habitat.org/carsforhomes/.

AUTOMOBILE PARTS

See companies listed under metal (scrap) or check your local directory for rubbish removal, scrap metal dealers or salvage yards in your area. Fees vary.

AUTOMOBILE TIRES

Tires are banned from landfills, but may be collected for incineration. Check with your DPW for local regulations.

J.P. Routhier, 256 Ayer Road, Littleton, 978-772-4251. They take all kinds of tires and collect all recyclable material. Call ahead for fees and drop-off times.

AUTOMOBILE — USED MOTOR OIL

In Massachusetts, retailers that sell motor oil have to the accept used oil if you have a receipt from them. In some towns you may be able to bring used motor oil to a hazardous waste collection. Check with your local DPW.

BABY GOODS

 ${\bf Also \; see \; Clothing \; and/or \; Furniture.}$

The Lowell Wish Project, 1A Foundry St., Lowell, 978-441-WISH (9474). They accept items in good condition: baby equipment, baby clothes, bedding, baby gear, etc. Must be clean and fully functional. Call ahead to make sure they need what you have. For more information and drop off hours at the warehouse, go to www.thewishproject.org.

Young Parents of Lowell, 45 Merrimack St., 978-459-2387. Please call first. They accept gently used clothes for newborns through age 20, toys and books for young children; books and educational materials for GED program, and books for teenagers and young adults.

BAGS

Plastic bags: Return clean plastic grocery bags to area grocery stores for recycling. Contact your area food pantry or thrift shop to see if they need clean plastic grocery bags. In the future, consider investing in reusable canvas or mesh bags to use when you shop. DO NOT put plastic bags in your curbside recycling bin and don't use

them to hold recyclable material. They disrupt the sorting equipment at recycling facilities.

Paper bags: Use bags to hold your paper for curbside recycling. If you have a lot, share with your neighbors for curbside recycling. Excess paper grocery bags can be recycled in your curbside recycling program.

BATTERIES

Alkaline batteries: (post-1994) no longer contain mercury. They can go in the trash.

Button batteries: These batteries contain mercury. Do not put them in the trash. They are found in watches, calculators, PDAs, cameras and hearing aids. Contact your recycling coordinator or board of gealth. Many communities have button-battery collection boxes or can tell you the location of the nearest collection box. Check with your jeweler to see if he or she takes the button batteries for recycling.

Rechargeable batteries: Contain toxic metals. Do not dispose of rechargeable batteries in the trash. Some rechargeable batteries must be collected as household hazardous waste. Other batteries are collected for recycling. The Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corp., www.rbrc.org, lists rechargeablebattery collection points sorted by ZIP code. Check with Radio Shack, Lowe's, Home Depot or Sears for drop-off options.

Vehicle batteries (boat, car, etc): These are lead-acid batteries. Lead is both toxic and valuable. Bring to your municipality's household hazardous waste day, or contact the store where purchased to see if they'll take them back for recycling. Virtually all locations that sell vehicle batteries will take them back.

BEDS

See Furniture.

BICYCLES

Chelmsford Boy Scout Troop 74: Collects bicycles and other household items for their Giant Yard Sale held every May. Call their Yard Sale Hot Line at 978-935-9474 to find out what they need.

Bikes Not Bombs: 59 Armory St., Roxbury. Call 617-522-0222 or go to www.bikesnotbombs.org. A contribution is requested to help defray the cost of shipping bikes overseas. No badly rusted bikes, please.

Pedals for Progress: They work with community organizations to do a yearly collection of bicycles. For more information go to www.p4p.org or call 908-638-4811.

FreeCycle: Join and try giving your bicycle away at www.freecycle.org.

BOOKS

Donate your books to your community's library book sale fundraiser, or contact one of the following:

Hands Across the Water: 781-438-4051, collects books for shipping to needy people overseas. There are collection boxes located at various locations, including Westford and Tyngsboro. Go to www.surplusbooksforcharity.org for directions to nearest drop-off boxes.

Young Parents of Lowell: 978-459-2387. They accept gently used books for children, books and educational materials for GED program, and books for teenagers and young adults. Please call first and let them know what you have.

Chelmsford Boy Scout Troop 74: Accepts donations of books for their Giant Yard Sale every spring. No textbooks or encyclopedias, please. Call the Yard Sale Hot Line at 978-935-9474 for information on what they are accepting.

Got Books Inc.: See Web site to locate drop-off sites. Pickup service is also available. In addition to books, they accept videos, CDs, records/LPs, computer software and games. Used book Superstores are located in Burlington and Danvers. Charity book store is located in Lawrence, open Friday and Saturday. See www.gotbooks.com or contact Got Books at (978) 327-7600 for more information.

Note: Encyclopedias often can not be reused or resold. Try to find someone who would like to use it, and if not see if can be recycled in your local recycling program.

BOTTLE AND CAN RETURNS

Massachusetts DEP registered centers:

www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/reduce/redempt .htm. Call for hours.

Lowell Bottle & Can: 143 Tanner St., Lowell. 978-453-0878.

Western Ave Redemption Center: 215 Western Ave. #6, Lowell, 978-452-4000.

Redemption Center of Tewksbury, 2314 Main St., Tewksbury, 978-618-4538.

BUILDING MATERIAL: REUSABLE

Carefully deconstructed material can often be reused, if it's in good condition. Contact the following for more information.

Building Materials Resource Center: 100 Terrace St., Boston, 617-442-8917. What they accept varies. Go to www.bostonbmrc.org for a list of what they need. Pickups may be available in your area for a fee.

Please see A TO Z/C11

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Lowell: Call 978-454-1046 or go to www.lowellhabitat.org/. They have no storage facility, find out if they have a current need for what you have.

Building Materials Reuse Association: A non-profit educational organization whose mission is to facilitate building deconstruction and the reuse and recycling of recovered building materials. Go to www.bmra.org/ or call 1-800-990-BMRA (2672) for Massachusetts and New Hampshire options.

LL & S Inc.: 87 Lowell Road, Salem, N.H., 1-603-894-9800. They accept building materials and wood fencing. Call for fees and dropoff hours.

BUILDING MATERIAL: CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS

All brick and concrete are banned from disposal with household trash. Small quantities (less than one barrel) of do-it-yourself construction debris may be put in the trash in most communities. Check with your local DPW or recycling coordinator for local options or see the local directory for rubbish removal. If you are using a contractor, get him/her to remove the construction debris. **Note:** Asbestos can only be removed by licensed abatement companies.

E.L. Harvey: 68 Hopkinton Road, Westboro, www.elharvey.com or 800-321-3002. They accept construction debris other than

hazardous materials. Call for hours and fees.

Waste Management Transfer Station: 256 New Lancaster Road, Leominster, 978-840-9557. They accept all construction debris but no asbestos. Minimum fee is based on weight, at present minimum is \$130, the charge for one ton. Call for hours and fees.

Graniteville Recycling: 49 N. Main St., Westford, 978-692-3532. They will accept concrete, asphalt and brick. Call for hours and fees.

C.J. Mabardy: Cambridge, 617-354-7580. Accepts metal, plaster, wallboard siding, railroad ties, roofing, wood fence and wood pieces. Call for hours and fees.

Agretech: 479 Broadway Road, Dracut, 978-475-8153. Accepts asphalt, concrete and brick. Call for hours and fees.

BMC Corp.: 1079 South St., Tewksbury, 978-667-2171. They accept clean wood, wood pallets, stumps, brush, grass and leaves. No C&D will be accepted. Call for hours and fees.

Landscape Express: Woburn, 978-462-5348. Accepts yard waste, leaves and grass, clean wood, fencing, pallets. No C&D will be accepted. Call for hours and fees.

CARDBOARD BOXES

Cardboard is banned by Massachusetts from disposal with the trash. Clean cardboard must be prepared for recycling. Most communities are not accepting pizza boxes for recycling due to risk of contamination from food or grease. For curbside collection, cardboard needs to be flattened and cut to 30" x 30" or smaller. Multiple pieces should be tied into bundles. Check with your local recycling coordinator or DPW.

UPS Stores: Company stores only have a cardboard-box-exchange program. Drop off gently used boxes and help yourself if you need some, as supply allows.

CARPET

May be allowed as a bulk item for curbside trash collection. Contact your city or town to find out what is allowed.

Conigliaro Industries: 701 Waverly St., Framingham, has a carpet recycling program. Residents can bring in small quantities Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Minimum charge is \$15.00. Fee is based on .045 cents per pound or \$90 per ton. For large-scale carpet cleanouts call 508-872-9668. See www.conigliaro.com for more information.

CDs

See Electronics.

CELL PHONES

Old cell phones can have a new life. Some can be reprogrammed with emergency phone numbers and given free of charge to people in need. Ask about reuse or recycling when you buy a new one. Non-working cell phones can be brought to most municipal electronics recycling events. Contact your recycling office for information. For other options, try:

Cell Phones for Soldiers: Mission to provide reconditioned cell phones to U.S. troops. See http://www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com for more information. Drop-off box at Department of Veterans Services at Billerica Town Hall, 365 Boston Road, or Wynn Middle School, 1 Griffin Way, Tewksbury.

GRC Wireless Recycling: GRC recycles cell phones through "Reuse" and "Refining" programs. See http://www.grcrecycling.com/index.cfm.

Chelmsford Town Hall: Bring cell phones, any kind, working or not, and cell phone chargers to the town clerk's office or the recycling office for recycling. Call 978-250-5203 for more information.

CHEMICALS

See Household Hazardous Waste Collection.

CLOTHES HANGERS — METAL

Return to a dry cleaner, or check with a local thrift shop to see if they can use them. Metal clothes hangers do not go in the recycle bin.

Please see A TO Z/C12





Chelmsford Climate Action Network www.chelmsfordcan.org

Go Green and learn how to Reduce your Carbon Footprint for a healthier planet!...

April 25th Earth Day Fair

on Chelmsford Common from noon to 3pm



CLOTHING

Many charities and organizations maintain self-service drop off boxes throughout the region for donations of gently used clothes and shoes. Contact the following organizations for more information:

Planet Aid: www.planetaid.org. New England Clothes Recyclers: 978-458-3771

St. Vincent De Paul: www.svdpboston.com.
Salvation Army Thrift Stores (1-800-728-7825) or visit www.salvationarmy.org), 625 Main St., Wilmington, 01887; 217 West Hollis St., Nashua, N.H., 03061; 132 Merrimac St., Haverhill, 01830. Call for pickup of large items.

Angels Above: 99 Mammoth Road, Lowell, 01854, 978-452-4833. Open Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday noon to 5 p.m. They accept clothing (no snow boots or snow shoes) and household items.

Young Parents of Lowell: 45 Merrimack St., Room 225, Lowell, MA 01852, (978-459-2387. This site will accept items Monday to Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Friday 8:30 a.m. to noon. Please call first. Wanted items include baby and children's clothes, gently used small toys, and books for all ages.

Children's Orchard: Billerica Commons, 446 Boston St., Billerica, MA 01821, 978-671-0008. This is a resale store for chil-

dren's clothing and shoes. They are always looking to buy gently used clothing and shoes. See www.childrensorchard.com for more information.

Big Brother, Big Sister Foundation: They collect gently used clothing and household items. Call to arrange home pickup, 800-483-5503. See www.bbbsfoundation.org for details.

Chelmsford Z00TS: 122 Chelmsford St., Chelmsford, MA 01824, 978-250-2362. Open Monday to Friday 7a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. This site accepts clean clothing and shoes in good condition, also hangers and plastic bags. They pass the donations along to Goodwill. See www.zoots.com for more information.

Many local churches have thrift shops. The following list is not a complete listing:

St. Vincent De Paul: 701 Merrimack St., Lowell, MA 01852, 978-453-7750. Accepts donations of clothes, furniture, household items, linens, shoes, accessories. For dropbox locations, see www.svdpboston.com.

Good Shepherd Thrift Shop: Lazarus House Ministries, 412 Hampshire St., Lawrence, MA 01841, 978-686-0441. Open Monday to Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. See www.lazarushouse.org for more information.

My Father's House: 83 Middlesex St., North Chelmsford, MA 01863, 978-251-8191. Open Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please call to make a drop-off appointment. See www.lifesaverministries.org for more information.

St. Anne's Episcopal Church Thrift Shop: Treble Cove Road, North Billerica, MA 01862, 978-670-2560. Open Thursday to Saturday 10a.m. to 2 p.m. All items should be clean and in reusable condition.

Evangelical Congregational Church Thrift Store: 25 Kendall Road, Tyngsboro, 978-251-9837.

COMPUTERS

See Electronics.

CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION (C&D) MATERIALS

See Building Materials.

ELECTRONICS — CRTs VCRs PRINTERS

When buying a new computer, ask about manufacturer programs to take back old computers or peripherals.

BestBuy: All stores offer electronics recycling. There is a \$10 fee for CRTS but they will give a merchandise credit in exchange.

Staples: In-store recycling program

accepts old electronics including used computers, monitors, laptops, printers, faxes. There is a \$10 fee for larger items.

Donate your working electronics to:

The Lowell Wish Project: 1A Foundry St., Lowell, 978-441-WISH (9474). Accepts newer laptops, computers, TVs and VCRs for more information go to www.thewishproject.org.

Solutions at Work: Accepts donations of computers, printers, monitors with minimum standards. Call 617-492-0300 ext. 6 or e-mail info@solutionsatwork.org for more information.

AFRIHOPE International Inc.: Provides assistance, including educational supplies, to needy people in developing countries. Contact them at 617-957-1613 or afrihope@aol.com to arrange for collection. A fee for monitors and the TVs helps cover the cost of collection. See http://www.afrihopeinc.org/ for more information.

The following companies will accept old and non-working electronics for recycling:

Electronic Recyclers: 461-471 West Broadway, Gardner. Call for hours at drop-off facility, 800-829-5082. For more information go to www.electronicrecyclers.com. Fee is \$.25 per pound for computers and TVs.

RST Electronics: 66 B River Road, Hudson, N.H., 603-595-8708. Call for drop-off hours. They will accept electronics for a small fee.

Please see A TO Z/C13

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Water Department Open House

Wednesday, May 6th, 5:30-7:30

The Westford Water Department cordially invites you to attend our Open House at **60 Forge Village Road, Westford** on Wednesday, May 6th from 5:30 to 7:30pm to celebrate **National Drinking Water Week**. Below is a list of just some of the things you can do during Open House. There is sure to be something for everyone who wants to discover different ways of "Living Green." Refreshments will be served.

Learn about EPA's new "WaterSense Program" for water-efficient products like toilets, faucets, and showerheads and talk to a WaterSense-certified Irrigation Specialist.

Receive free water conservation devices (while supplies last) and get information on how to purchase rain barrels.

Become educated on organic lawn care and landscaping.

Purchase composters and learn about all the ways to recycle from our friends at the Westford Recycling Commission.

Take a tour of our water treatment facility.

Bring the kids! They'll see different types of aquatic organisms found in our lakes and streams, receive stickers, coloring books, balloons, etc. (while supplies last).

The general public is invited. Hope to see you all on May 6th!!!

ELECTRONICS — CDS, DVDS, VHS TAPES

Got Books Inc.: In addition to books, they accept videos, CDs, records/LPs, computer software and games. See listing under books for more info.

GreenDisk: This is a disposal service for "technotrash," computer-related waste. Data is destroyed and reusable components are recovered or recycled. Fees apply. See Web site for list of material accepted. See www.greendisk.com or call (800) 305-3475.

ELECTRONICS — CARTRIDGES (PRINTERS AND COPIERS)

These are often collected as a fundraiser. Check with local schools. Office Max and Staples accept Lexmark, Hewlett Packard and Dell products.

Cartridge World: 83 Parkhurst Road, Unit 16, Chelmsford, 978-735-4311. They accept used Inkjet and laser cartridges for refilling and reuse, www.cartridgeworld.com.

ENCYCLOPEDIAS

See books. Try first to see if anybody would like to use newer encyclopedias. They

may not be accepted by your local recycling programs. Call to verify acceptance.

EYEGLASSES/HEARING AIDS

Check with your local Lions Club or take used eyeglasses to Lions Club Eyeglasses drop-off boxes located at:

Tyngsboro Post Office: 353 Middlesex Road.

American Legion Post 247: 80 Pawtucket
Blvd. Tyngsboro.

Multi-Service Center: 180 Lakeview Ave, Tyngsboro.

Chelmsford Town Offices: 50 Billerica Road. Jim's Barber Shop/Van Optics: 8A Andover Road, Billerica.

Billerica Council on Aging Senior Center: 25 Concord Road, collects eyeglasses.

Pearle Vision Center: 229 Main St., Wilmington, 978-658-8890, 440 Middlesex Road, Tyngsboro, 978-649-3880 or 379 Amherst St., Nashua, N.H., 603-886-8222.

Lenscrafters: See www.lenscrafters.com for locations in Nashua and Salem N.H. or Burlington and Peabody.

For Eyes: 274 Daniel Webster Highway, No. 5, Nashua, N.H., 603-888-8700, or 2 Wayside Road, Burlington, 781-273-0198.

Wal-Mart: Stores with vision centers have Lion's Club eyeglasses donation boxes. Including the Tewksbury store at 333 Main St., 978-851-6265. Please bring eyeglasses and sunglasses to the Walmart vision center

Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday noon to 5 p.m.

Salvation Army, 1-800-728-7825, www.salvationarmyusa.org (various locations).

New Eyes For The Needy: 549 Millburn, P.O. Box 332, Short Hills, N.J. 07078, 973-376-4903, www.neweyesfortheneedy.org. New Eyes for the Needy strives to improve the vision of the less fortunate by purchasing new eyeglasses in the United States and recycling donated glasses for distribution in developing nations worldwide. This is a mail-in program. Please call for proper mailing instructions. This site will accept metal and plastic frames and non-prescription sunglasses.

Lions In Sight: 1404 Lemon St., Vallejo, Calif., 94590, 925-708-4833, www.lionsinsight.org. This is a mail-in program. Lions In Sight is dedicated to bringing basic eyecare and eyeglasses to a world of people in need. Please place your eyeglasses in a box with tissue or newspaper padding and mail to the address listed or look for a Lions In Sight collection box where you buy your glasses.

Help the Children Hear: A Rotary International Foundation project with the goal to address the hearing needs of children and others around the world and provide resources to continue to aid lower income hearing impaired children. See http://www.helpthechildrenhear.org/default.htm.

Massachusetts Lions District 33-S Hearing Foundation.

Working hearing aids can be sent to:

Morton Hospital Speech, Hearing, and Language Center: 2007 Bay St., Suite B-100, Taunton, MA 02780. For more information call (508) 823-3050.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Fire and Safety Corp, 978-649-4945. Call for information.

FLAG DISPOSAL

Don't throw your old flag in the trash. Contact one of the following:

Flagkeepers: www.flagkeepers.org. If you cannot find a location that will dispose of your flags, you can mail them to Flagkeepers. They will ensure your tattered, ragged and faded flags are properly disposed of at a patriotic flag retirement ceremony. Send flags to: Flag Keepers, 1108 Lee Ave, Kannapolis, NC 28081.

VFW: Proper flag disposal is one of the patriotic duties of VFW Posts nationwide. No. Andover VFW Post 2104, 32 Park St., North Andover, MA, 01845, 978-687-9614. VFW Lowell, 190 Plain Street, Lowell, MA 01852, 978-453-6231.

Please see A TO Z/C14

Cash Paid

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American Legion: Many American Legion Posts conduct Disposal of Unserviceable Flag Ceremonies on June 14, Flag Day. American Legion Post 87, 684 Westford St. #2001 Lowell, MA 01851. American Legion Post 437, 114 Dunstable Road, Westford, MA 01886, (978) 692-7400 or contact@legionpost437.com. See www.legionpost437.com for directions and more information.

Veterans Services, city/town halls: Billerica Veterans Services, 978-671-0968. Tewksbury has an old mail box painted red, white and blue at the Town Hall Annex where residents can drop off their flags for proper disposal. Tyngsboro Veterans Services, call 978-649-2300 x 132.

FOOTWEAR

Also see Clothing.

Nike: They accept all brands of used athletic shoes. No cleats or boots. See www.nikebiz.com for more information on Nike Reuse A Shoe.

Nike-Town Boston: 200 Newbury St., Boston, MA 02116, 617-267-3400.

Nike Factory Store: Wrentham Outlet Malls, 1 Premium Outlets Boulevard Suite 600, Wrentham, 508-384-1800. Open Monday to Saturday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

City Sports: All stores including 1035 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, MA 02215; 480 Boylston St., Boston, MA 02116; 11 Bromfield St., Boston, MA 02108; 44 Brattle St., Cambridge, MA, 02138; 1815 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02138; and 37 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill, MA 02467. See www.citysports.com for directions. They accept all brands of used athletic shoes in small quantities.

FURNITURE/HOUSEHOLD **ITEMS**

The Lowell Wish Project: 1A Foundry St., Lowell, MA, 978-441-WISH (9474). They accept bureaus, furniture, beds and stain free mattresses. Baby cribs, mattresses are accepted but they must be clean and fully functional. The following items may also be accepted: small appliances, color TVs, VCRs, laptops, dish sets and pots and pans. Call ahead to make sure they need what you have. For more information and drop off hours at the warehouse, go to www.thewishproject.org.

Big Brother. Big Sister Foundation: They collect gently used household items and clothing. Call to arrange home pick -up 800-483-5503. See www.bbbsfoundation.org for details.

Goodwill of Massachusetts: 230 Elm St, Somerville, MA 02144, (617) 628-3618. See www.goodwillmass.org for details. They no longer accept couches or mattresses.

Goodwill Industries of New Hampshire: 7 Orchard View Drive, Londonderry, N.H. 03053, 603-742-4299. See www.ginne.org

for list of acceptable donations.

Household Goods Recycling Ministry Inc: 530 Main St., Acton, MA 01720, 978-635-1763. See http://www.HGRM.org for a list of items taken and not taken. They do have limited pick up capability, which is performed by volunteers in contiguous towns for a \$25 fee. Drop off Thursdays and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to noon.

Project Home Again: Andover, 978-470-1356 or projecthomeagain@comcast.net. See www.projecthomeagain.bravehost.com for details, warehouse location and hours.

Mass Coalition for the Homeless: 781-595-7570 ext. 13 or www.masshomeless.org.

St. Vincent de Paul: Lowell Store, 701 Merrimack St., Lowell, MA 01854, 978-453-7750. See www.svdpboston.com for details.

Salvation Army Thrift Stores: 1-800-728 -7825 or visit www.salvationarmy.org., 625 Main St., Wilmington, MA 01887; 217 West Hollis St., Nashua, N.H. 03061; 132 Merrimac St., Haverhill, MA 01830. Call for pickup of large items.

GREETING CARDS

Reuse as gift tags on next year's gift packages or check with local senior center or afterschool program or recycle with other paper.

HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD **WASTE (HHW)**

Most cities/towns have a special collection program for Household Hazardous Waste. HHW includes pesticides, solvents, toxic chemicals, pool chemicals, acids, bases, and flammable materials. These should NOT be put into the trash even in small quantities. They can become very dangerous, especially if mixed with other material. Risk of contamination to ground water is significant. Check with your local Board of Health or Public Works Department for details about collection options.

Minuteman Hazardous Products Collection Facility: Hartwell Ave., Lexington. Monthly collection dates start in April and go through November. Residents of member towns may attend at no charge (fee paid by town). Residents of nonmember towns will pay a fee based on quantity. To find out if your town is a participating member, contact your recycling office or town hall. See www.ci.lexington.ma.us/OCD/Health/HazWaste. htm for complete list of hazardous material accepted and for directions. Latex paint will not be accepted. For large quantities residents should call first. Commercial toxic waste from VSQG, Very Small Quantity Generators, may be accepted; generator must call in advance for pricing and to reserve a space. Call Kevin at 800-

LIGHTBULBS

All fluorescent light bulbs (compact bulbs and fluorescent tubes) contain a very small amount of mercury and are banned from the trash. Check your city/town's policy for collection of fluorescent light bulbs. Standard

(incandescent) light bulbs can be thrown into the trash. Wrap in old paper to avoid injury.

LINENS

Animal shelters often need linens and can use ones that are in poor condition.

MSPCA- Angell: See www.mspca.org for list of animal care and adoption centers

Lowell Humane Society: 951 Broadway St, Lowell, MA 978-452-7781 or

Nevins Farm: 400 Broadway, Methuen, 978-687-7453.

MATTRESSES

Check with your DPW for regulations on curbside pickup and/or drop-off.

The Lowell Wish Project: Accepts stainfree mattresses in good condition; www.lowellwishproject.org/. Call 978-441-9474 for drop-off hours.

MEDICAL WASTE

Expired medications and used syringes: DO NOT flush medications down the toilet. This often results in groundwater contamination. Add a small amount of water and household bleach to the pill container; close the bottle and place in the trash.

Sharps containers: Can be purchased at most pharmacies or medical supply stores. A rigid plastic container, such as a detergent bottle can be used to hold sharps; reinforce the lid with heavy duty tape. Check with your doctor, vet or pharmacist for disposal options. In July 2010, sharps will be banned from disposal with your trash. Check with your Board of Health for up-to-date information.

MERCURY-CONTAINING ITEMS

All of the following items contain mercury and require special handling: Thermostats, thermometers, mercury switches, blood pressure gauges, barometers, flow meters and fluorescent bulbs. These items are banned from disposal with the trash. Check with your local Board of Health, DPW or Recycling Coordinator for disposal options.

METAL: FERROUS AND NON-FERROUS SCRAP

Max Levine & Co.: 270 Tanner St., Lowell, 978-454-7786. Call first and let them know what you have.

Black and Blue Demo and Salvage: Chelmsford, 978-804-7240, Scrap metal dealer.

Cubelli and Sons: Scrap metal dealer in Methuen, 978-618-2121 or 978-688-1773.

BHS Inc.: 17 Rock St., Lowell, 978-454-0311. Accepts non-ferrous metals only (brass, copper, aluminum, etc).

Please see A TO Z/C15



Wheelabrator North Andover Inc.

A Waste Management Company



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MOTOR OIL

See Automobile — used motor oil.

PACKAGING MATERIAL

Clean Styrofoam, packing peanuts, bubble wrap, and packing pillows can reused.

The Peanut Hotline: A 24-tour, toll-free service (800-828-2214) that directs callers to the nearest location that accepts plastic loosefill packing peanuts free of charge.

The UPS Store: Most company stores accept clean packing material. Check for locations at http://www.theupsstore.com/.

Postal Center USA: Check http://www.postalcenterusa.com/ for store locations. Call to find out if they are accepting packing material

PAINT — LATEX

Latex paint is not hazardous. Let it dry out, mix it with kitty litter to absorb the liquid or use a paint hardener (available at most paint or hardware stores) to absorb the liquid then put out with your regular trash. Leave cans next to trash barrel with lids off so haulers can see that it is dry. Some towns have paint swap sheds at their dropoff centers.

PAINT — OIL-BASED

Also see Household Hazardous Waste. Oil-based paint is flammable and considered hazardous waste and should not be thrown in the trash. Check with your city/town for information on household hazardous waste disposal.

PHONE BOOKS

Check your town's recycling policy for phonebooks. Most towns allow phone books to be recycled at curbside with your other paper.

Billerica Boy Scout Troop 55: Will pick up recyclable paper, including phone books call Mike Wenger at 978-663-5917.

PROPANE TANKS

Do not put propane tanks in the trash; many towns have a collection day or a drop-off location for propane tanks. Check with your local DPW or Recycling Coordinator for more information.

SCRAP METAL

See Metal.

SMOKE DETECTORS

According to Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, certain smoke detectors do contain a radioactive sensing device but the level of radioactivity is so low that it is considered harmless. Please remove the battery and dispose of the smoke detector

in the trash. See the section on batteries for proper disposal of the battery.

SPORTING GOODS

Play It Again, Sports: http://www.playitagain-sports.com. They will buy, sell, trade, and take on consignment both new and used sporting goods.

Goodwill of Massachusetts: 230 Elm St, Somerville, MA 02144, (617) 628-3618. See www.goodwillmass.org for details.

Goodwill Industries of New Hampshire: 7 Orchard View Drive, Londonderry, N.H. 03053, 603-742-4299. See www.ginne.org for list of acceptable donations.

Salvation Army: Various locations — call 800-728-7825 or visit www.salvationarmyusa.org.

TANKS (PROPANE, HELIUM)

Many towns have a collection day or location for propane tanks. Completely empty helium tanks with the valve open; can be processed as scrap metal or go in the trash. Check with your local DPW or recycling coordinator for more information.

TIRES

See Automobiles.

TOOLS

Goodwill of Massachusetts: 230 Elm St., Somerville, MA 02144, 617-628-3618. See www.goodwillmass.org for details.

Goodwill Industries of New Hampshire: 7 Orchard View Drive, Londonderry, N.H. 03053, 603-742-4299. See www.ginne.org for list of acceptable donations.

Salvation Army: Various locations — call 800-728-7825 or visit www.salvationarmyusa.org.

TOYS

Many of the places that accept furniture or household items also accept toys in good condition.

Chelmsford Boy Scout Troop 74: Collects toys, bicycles and other household items for their Giant Yard Sale in May. Call their Yard Sale Hot Line at 978-935-9474 to find out what they need.

VEHICLES

See Automobile.

VHS TAPES, CDs, DVDs

See Electronics.

YARD WASTE

Consider setting up a compost bin in your backyard. Check with your local DPW or Recycling Coordinator for yard waste options.

BMC Corp.: 1079 South St., Tewksbury, 978-667-2171. Will accept yard waste, stumps, and clean wood. Call for hours and fees.

Landscape Express: Woburn, 978-462-5348. Accepts yard waste and clean wood. Call for hours and fees.





ALLIED WASTE GOES AUTOMATED

ALLIED WASTE

Allied Waste is currently performing automated trash services in the City of Lowell and will begin automated pick ups in Billerica, Burlington, Tewksbury and Tyngsboro on July 1st 2009.

Automated collection is rapidly gaining throughout North America. The improvements in service, environmental benefits, and a safer work environment for our employees, will ensure that we will provide the most economical, safest and best service possible.

- * TRASH CARTS are convenient and easy to use.
- * Large wheels make TRASH CARTS easy to roll.
- * TRASH CARTS are strong and sturdy little maintenance is required. If issues arise, call us at 978-649-7564.
- * Residents no longer need to purchase their own trash cans.
- * Improves the appearance of your neighborhood by giving it a uniform look.
- * Attached lids minimize animal scavenging and pests, and help control odors and reduce water/ snow weight.



Allied Waste offers recycle programs for all apartments, condos and commercial buildings Call 1-800-442-9006 For a quote



<u>INVESTING IN A GREENER FUTURE</u>

When we look to the future, we think about the environmental issues that customers will face, which is why we are working to create better, cleaner processes and programs that provide innovative solutions. We understand that customers are concerned about more than just disposing of their waste at the lowest cost, they want help in meeting their goals around sustainability and environmentally sound waste practices. That's why we recycled over

1.5 million tons of materials and made investments to further expand our recycling capacity.

From working toward a cleaner environment to transforming landfills, we are providing answers to our customers' waste disposal, recycling and environmental needs.



HOW DO I DISPOSE OF?

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Quality fire extinguishers (mostly they are metal) in good condition can be recharged. Inexpensive fire extinguishers (most are plastic) and ones in poor condition cannot be recharged. Look under "Fire Extinguishers" in the Yellow Pages for a company that can recharge or call your local fire department.

LATEX PAINT?

Latex paint is not considered hazardous. The proper way to dispose of latex paint is in the regular trash. In order for it to be accepted by your trash contractor it must be dry/hardened. The best thing to do is either leave the lids off the cans until the paint dries, or hasten the drying process with kitty litter, or a waste paint hardener, that can be purchased where paint supplies are sold. When the paint is dry leave the lids off so that the trash collectors can inspect the cans. They won't take wet paint because it can make

a real mess in a compactor truck, and subsequently on our streets! **Recycle**: Perhaps you could even consider contributing your unused latex paint to your local school's Drama Club. They can use any color of the rainbow.

